

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A support for an exhaust gas purification catalyst comprising: a porous catalyst base material and a metal oxide support layer coated onto the inner surface of the pores of said porous catalyst base material, the surface of said metal oxide support layer having mesh-like cracks.
2. (Original) A production method of a support for an exhaust gas purification catalyst according to claim 1 comprising: impregnating a solution of an acidic metal salt inside the pores of the porous catalyst base material followed by reacting with an alkaline solution and firing to form the metal oxide support layer.
3. (Original) A production method of a support for an exhaust gas purification catalyst according to claim 1 comprising: impregnating a sol solution, which is obtained by hydrolyzing and partially condensing a metal alkoxide, into the pores of the porous catalyst base material, followed by firing to form the metal oxide support layer.
4. (Currently Amended) A production method of a support for an exhaust gas purification catalyst according to claim 1 comprising: impregnating a solution of an acidic metal salt and a sol solution obtained by hydrolyzing and partially condensing a metal alkoxide into the pores of the porous catalyst base material followed by firing to form the metal oxide support layer.
5. (Previously Presented) A production method according to claim 2 wherein the solution impregnated into the pores of the porous catalyst base material has a solid portion concentration of 10-40 wt%.
6. (Original) A support for an exhaust gas purification catalyst comprising: a porous catalyst base material and a metal oxide support layer coated onto the inner surface of

the pores of said porous catalyst base material, said metal oxide support layer being a porous layer having an average pore diameter of 10 nm or more.

7. (Original) A support for an exhaust gas purification catalyst comprising: a porous catalyst base material and a metal oxide support layer coated onto the inner surface of the pores of said porous catalyst base material, said metal oxide support layer being a porous layer having an average pore diameter of 10 nm or more, and the surface of said metal oxide support layer having mesh-like cracks.

8. (Previously Presented) A production method of a support for an exhaust gas purification catalyst according to claim 6 comprising: impregnating a solution of an acidic metal salt, and a solution containing one or more types selected from the group consisting of polymer that dissolves in that solution, polymer powder and surfactant, into the pores of the porous catalyst base material, followed by reacting with an alkaline solution and firing to form the metal oxide support layer.

9. (Previously Presented) A production method of a support for an exhaust gas purification catalyst according to claim 6 comprising: impregnating a sol solution obtained by hydrolyzing and partially condensing a metal alkoxide, and a solution containing one or more types selected from the group consisting of polymer that dissolves in that solution, polymer powder and surfactant, into the pores of the porous catalyst base material followed by firing to form the metal oxide support layer.

10. (Previously Presented) A production method of a support for an exhaust gas purification catalyst according to claim 6 comprising: impregnating a mixed solution of a solution of an acid metal salt and a sol solution obtained by hydrolyzing and partially condensing a metal alkoxide, and a mixed solution containing one or more types selected from the group consisting of polymer that dissolves in that mixed solution, polymer powder

and surfactant, into the pores of the porous catalyst base material followed by firing to form the metal oxide support layer.

11. (Previously Presented) A production method according to claim 8 wherein, the solution impregnated into the pores of the porous catalyst base material has a solid portion concentration of 10-40 wt%.

12. (Previously Presented) A production method according to claim 3 wherein the solution impregnated into the pores of the porous catalyst base material has a solid portion concentration of 10-40 wt%.

13. (Previously Presented) A production method according to claim 4 wherein the solution impregnated into the pores of the porous catalyst base material has a solid portion concentration of 10-40 wt%.

14. (Previously Presented) A production method of a support for an exhaust gas purification catalyst according to claim 7 comprising: impregnating a solution of an acidic metal salt, and a solution containing one or more types selected from the group consisting of polymer that dissolves in that solution, polymer powder and surfactant, into the pores of the porous catalyst base material, followed by reacting with an alkaline solution and firing to form the metal oxide support layer.

15. (Previously Presented) A production method of a support for an exhaust gas purification catalyst according to claim 7 comprising: impregnating a sol solution obtained by hydrolyzing and partially condensing a metal alkoxide, and a solution containing one or more types selected from the group consisting of polymer that dissolves in that solution, polymer powder and surfactant, into the pores of the porous catalyst base material followed by firing to form the metal oxide support layer.

16. (Previously Presented) A production method of a support for an exhaust gas purification catalyst according to claim 7 comprising: impregnating a mixed solution of a

solution of an acid metal salt and a sol solution obtained by hydrolyzing and partially condensing a metal alkoxide, and a mixed solution containing one or more types selected from the group consisting of polymer that dissolves in that mixed solution, polymer powder and surfactant, into the pores of the porous catalyst base material followed by firing to form the metal oxide support layer.

17. (Previously Presented) A production method according to claim 9 wherein, the solution impregnated into the pores of the porous catalyst base material has a solid portion concentration of 10-40 wt%.

18. (Previously Presented) A production method according to claim 10 wherein, the solution impregnated into the pores of the porous catalyst base material has a solid portion concentration of 10-40 wt%.